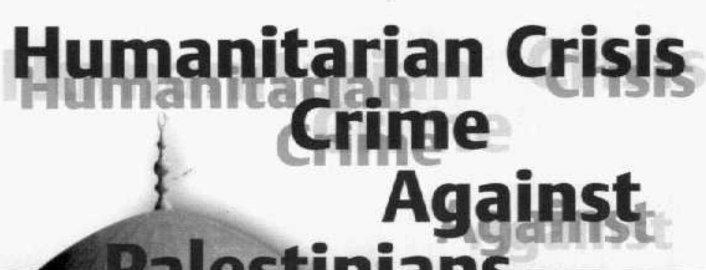
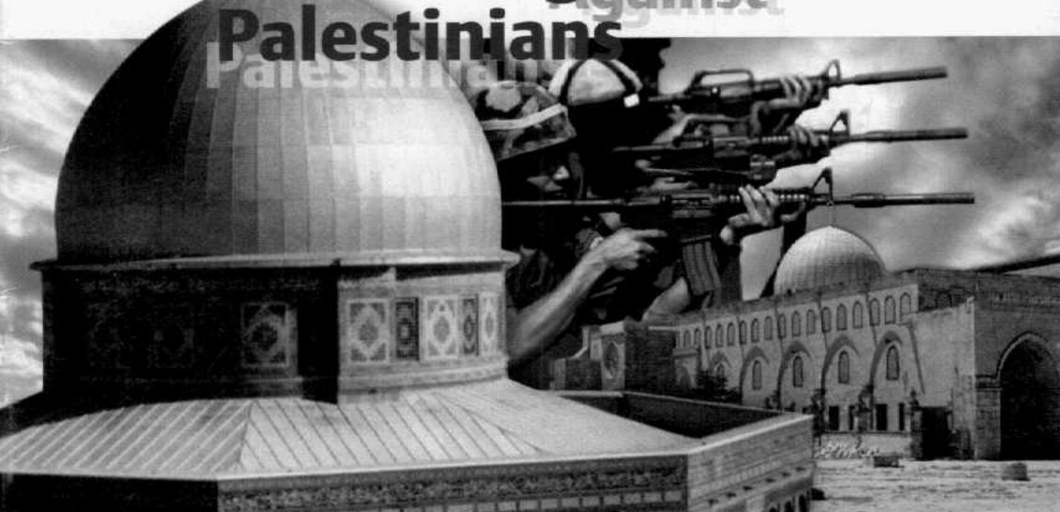
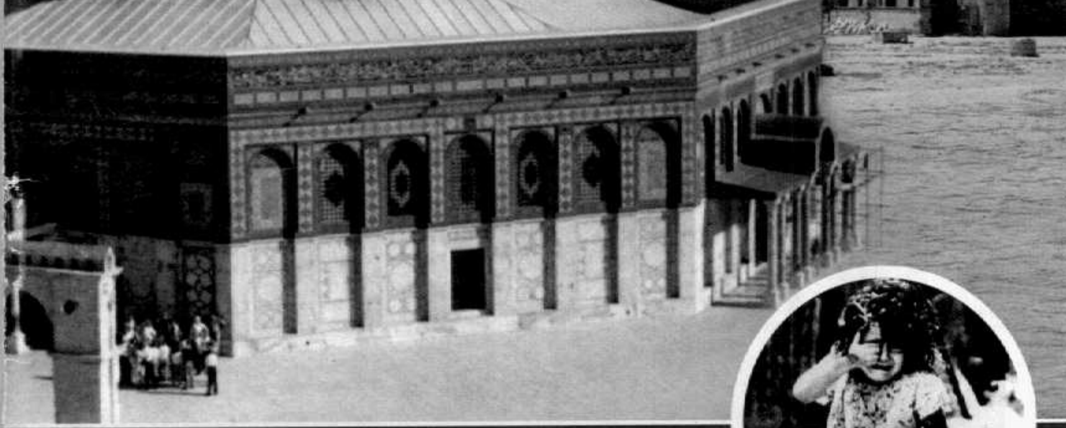


Humanitarian Crisis Crime Against Palestinians







Palestinian Needs:

- Rights To Return
- Proclamation Of The State

Here's My Story

An Open Letter to Queen Silvia, Queen of Sweden
Concerned wWith the Welfare of Children
AN APPEAL FOR THE PROTECTION OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

We, Palestinian mothers living under Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza, are writing you today about our most urgent concern – the protection of our children and their right to live a life free of fear, harm and humiliation. In fact, at the present moment, their very right to life is also at stake.

We appreciate your concern for the welfare of children around the world. We were thus very disturbed and shocked when we heard media reports that you condemned Palestinians for "using" children in their struggle against Israeli occupation and for national independence. We understand now that your statement was perhaps distorted but the issue is both so painful to us and so exploited and distorted by Israeli spokespersons that we would like to take this opportunity both to clarify, and to issue an urgent appeal for the protection of our children.





You are of course right to be concerned about the welfare of Palestinian children. Of the 123 Palestinians killed since 28 September by Israeli soldiers or settlers, about a third have been under 18 years of age. The youngest was 18 month old Sara Hassan, killed when soldiers opened fire on her family car. Palestinian counsellors report widespread trauma among our children, many of whom saw the death of 12-year-old Mohammed Durra on television, as he died while his father tried to shelter him from relentless Israeli fire. Other children witness the death of their friends and family members at closer range: consider the impact of the death of 9 year old Mohammed Asi from Khan Yunis or 12 year old Samer Tabanjeh, killed by an Israeli army bullet to his head, in Nablus on their friends and community. As mothers, our trauma is that we cannot protect our children in a situation when the slaughter of children is a daily occurrence. It is the killers of children who need to be stopped, rather than blaming the mothers and fathers of the victims.

We would like to make the following points:

1. As the examples above indicate, children are killed by the Israeli army diverse circumstances – both as bystanders and in demonstrations. The greatest "crime" of these child victims consists in carrying a stone in front of one of the world's mightiest armies. The Israeli army has not suffered



fatalities from our children; they have only inflicted death u pon them.

2. Our children are not dispatched to the "front lines," the points of danger and confrontation are all around them, near to their homes and schools. For most of our children, the streets of their communities are their playgrounds; we cannot protect our children with the secure facilities for play and learning that we only dream of. We also note that the Israeli army comes to Palestinian land to confront our children, not the other way around.

3. The number of children killed by bullets to the attest to the use of snipers by the Israeli army attests to an enormously callous attitude to the value of Palestinian life and a deliberate policy of lethal and excessive force.

4. Children who throw stones at the Israeli army are responding to their life conditions, where they both remember past humiliation and terror and look towards a future without security, meaningful work, or dignity. By resisting occupation, they hope for a better future where basic rights – health, education, work opportunities, human rights – are ensured.

5. As mothers we above all know that mothers and fathers want safety security for their children – as all mothers and fathers do everywhere. We know that no mother or father, mourning their child, sent that child into the situation which cost his life. Instead, it is that situation – where Israeli soldiers occupy Palestinian land and open fire at will on children – that must be remedied.



We believe that Palestinians, like people everywhere, deserve to live in dignity, security and peace with our children. We hope you , and all those concerned with the welfare of children, will speak publicly on behalf of the protection of Palestinian children and their right to a secure, independent and democratic future. We believe visible international protection on the ground in Palestine is needed to protect our children and we ask for your support in this appeal. We hope you might receive a delegation of children and mothers in Sweden in the near future.

Palestinian Mothers in the West Bank and Gaza Ramallah
29 October 2000

Contact: Women's Affairs Technical Committee
Suheir Azzouni-Mahshi

The terror in Palestine continues. The fierce Palestinian kids are still launching painful high velocity stone assaults against the poor Israeli soldiers, who only have bullets, tanks and missiles to protect their continuously threatened life. The Israeli soldiers are running out of weapons, as more and more kids hit the bullets and missiles by their bare bodied. The Israeli Defense Force asks the conscience of the world for urgent military support.

For those planning to start collecting donations for the Israeli Army, you can use this brief presentation.

1

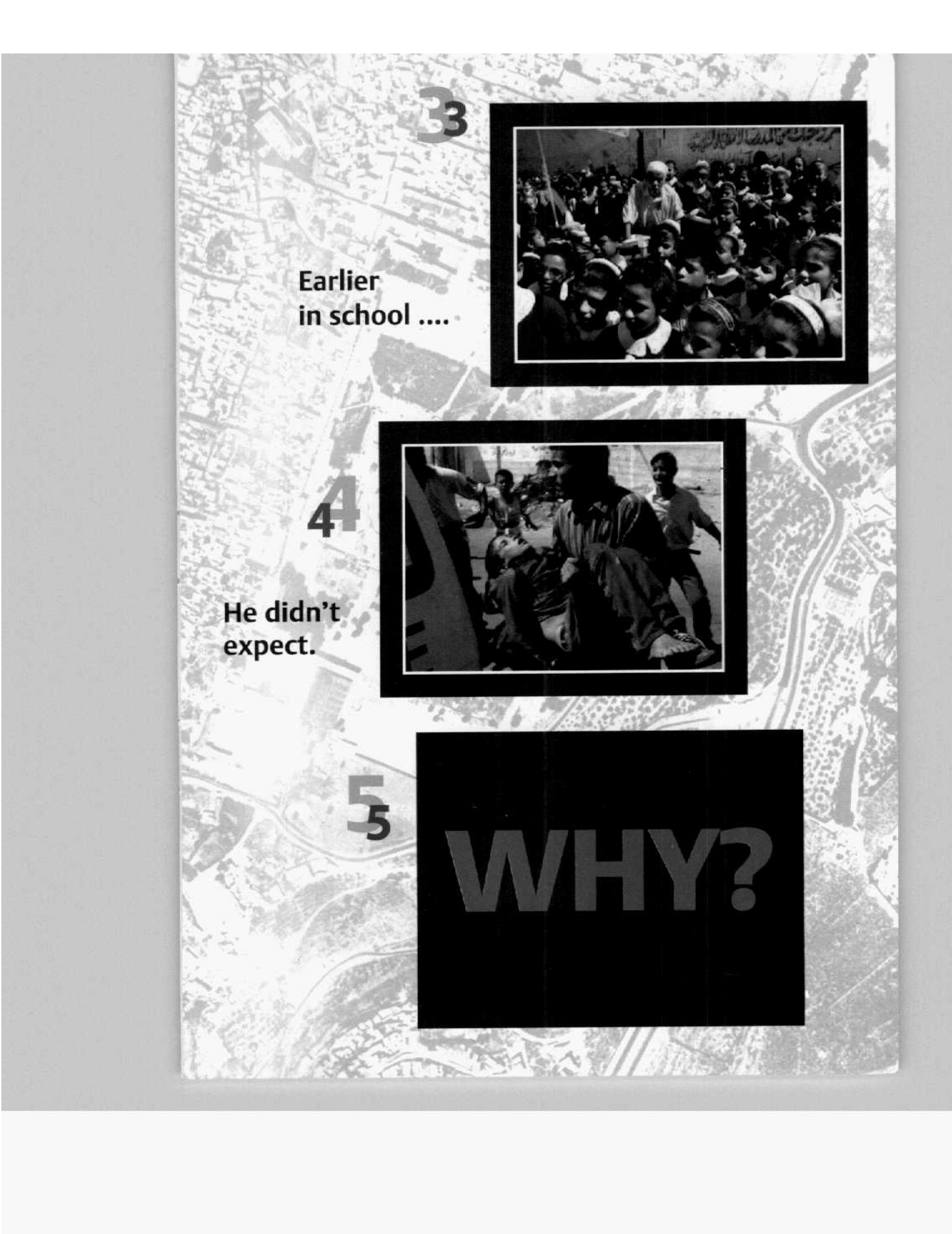


A Palestinian boy ....

2



Was shot
in the head.


3
Earlier
in school ....
4
He didn't
expect.
5
WHY?

Because he is a TERRORIST, that's why.

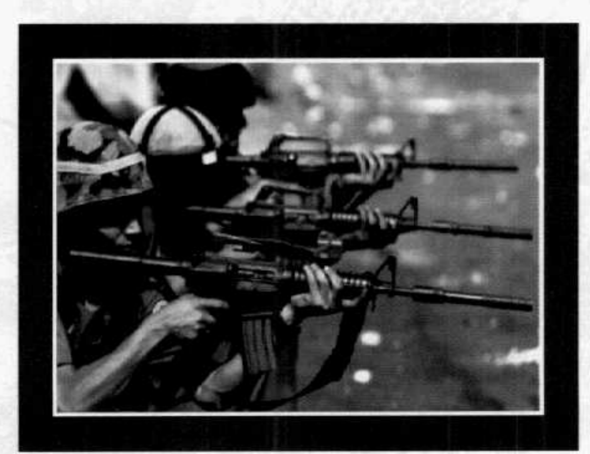
6 6

7 7

He has to know that throwing stones ....



8 8



will only mean breaking his bones.





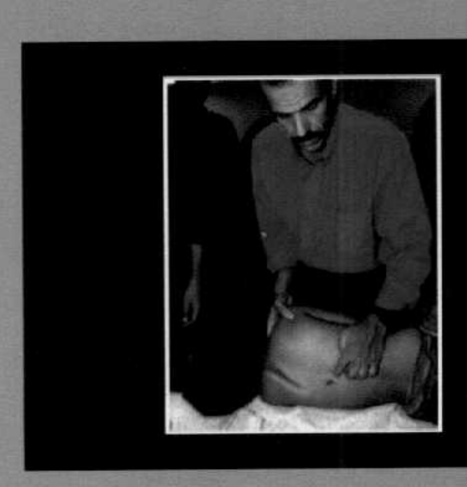
They are terrorists and the world must know ....

10



That in front of kids, we do not shoot low.

11



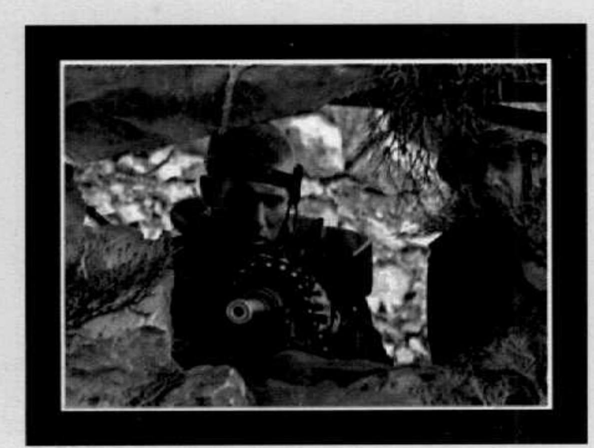
With a shot in the head, or in the back ....

12

In any demonstration ....



13



We'll shoot back.

14



These violent boys just make you ill ....

15



How many more we will have to kill?

16



We'll kill 'em all, Barak said ....

17

We can definitely defeat a bunch of kids.



18

Hey America, we need more aid ....

19

Our weapons are not up to date.





20

We face grave danger from boys so young ....

21

And we only have some tanks and guns.





22

We will kill them old ....

23

And will kill them teenagers....



24

And will kill them young.





25

With a shot in the head ....

26

Or in the lung.





27

Shoot this boy ....

29

And while we are at it ....





28

And these two ....



30

Let's kill these too!

31

The facts

125 Palestinian killed in the last 20 days
40 of them are under the age of 15
5000 lie in the hospitals.

32

And more to come......
You see how much bullets and missiles we had to sacrifice

33

Don't be deceived by the school bag on his back, these are bombs !!



And we will not forget....

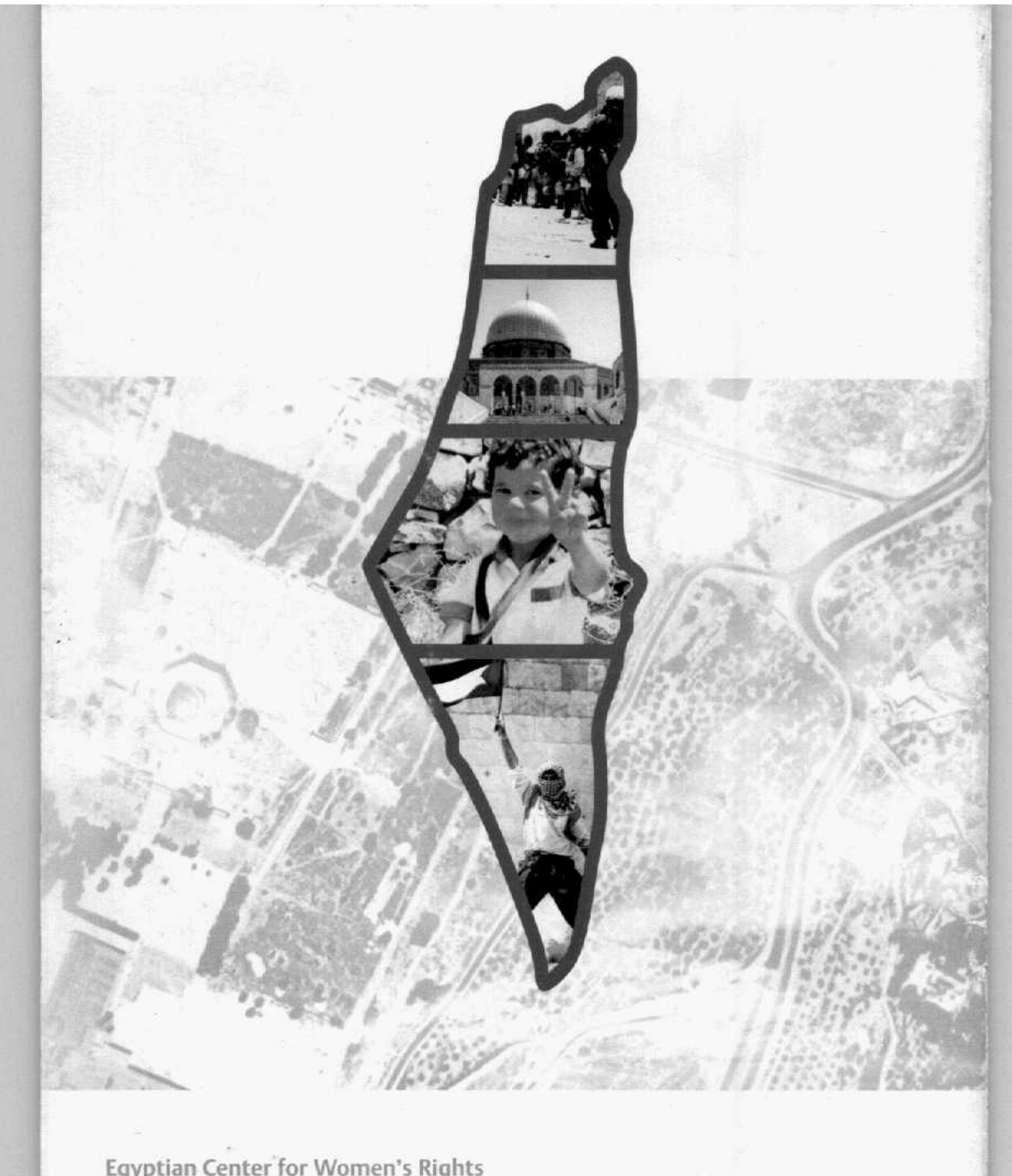
34



The most dangerous ones...

35

SO PLEASE HELP US!!



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